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G E N E A L O G I E S

BY

JAMES W. HAWES.

ELDRED,^a ELDREDGE

FIRST GENERATION.

Robert(1) Eldred(b) is first mentioned in the Colonial records, May 25, 1639, when Nicholas Simpkins (then of Yarmouth), of whom he was a hired servant for the term of three years from the following July, assigned his services, with the consent of Eldred, to Governor Thomas Prence (then residing in Plymouth) for the consideration of 10 pounds Sterling, his service with Prence to begin June 15 next. Prence was to pay him 4 pounds per annum and a ewe goat at the end of the term, as agreed by Simpkins, and 10 shillings more per annum claimed by Eldred provided the claim should be established.(c) Simpkins had previously resided in Boston, and he may have brought Eldred with him from there to Yarmouth.(d) Eldred was among the male inhabitants of Plymouth between 16 and 60 years of age able to bear arms August 1643.(e) March 3, 1644-5, he was both plaintiff and defendant in suits with persons apparently residing in Plymouth.(f) In 1647 the estate of Thomas Howell, late of Marshfield, was indebted to him in the sum of 16 shillings.(g) He subsequently removed to Yarmouth, where in the last week of

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October, 1649, he married Elizabeth Nickerson, daughter of William(1) Nickerson.(h) (See Nickerson Genealogy.)

March 1, 1652-3, he was engaged in a lawsuit with Edward Sturgis of Yarmouth.(i) June 3, 1657, he took the oath of fidelity at Yarmouth and was sworn as constable of that town.(j) May 3, 1659, in the suit of William Nickerson v. Edward Sturgis he was allowed by the Colony Court 15 shillings for coming to Plymouth to testify and going to Eastham and Barnstable for witnesses, in all ten days, and 6 shillings for six days' other services, including writing the testimony of Nicholas and Robert Nickerson.(k) January 15, 1661-2, William Nickerson deeded to his daughter Elizabeth Eldred, 40 acres of upland and 10 acres of meadow in Monomoy(l), part of the land being by or next to a swamp near the "Oyster Pond Furlong." This deed was acknowledged Jan. 17, 1682-3, and in the acknowledgment Nickerson states that he had given her and her heirs liberty to feed cattle on his other lands.(m) July 4, 1663, he joined his father-in-law and brothers-in-law in a petition to the Colony Court for leave to settle at Monomoy.(n)

Oct. 31, 1666, Major Josiah Winslow and others, representing those to whom the Colony Court had granted lands in Monomoy, brought an action of trespass "for unjust possession and improvement of the said lands" against Robert Eldred, Trustrum Hedges and Nathaniel Covell. This suit resulted in a judgment for the

plaintiffs for 10 shillings damages and costs.(o) Robert Eldred and Elizabeth, his wife, described as of Yarmouth, conveyed a dwelling house and land in Yarmouth to Samuel Hall, of that place, by deed dated Feb. 25, 1666-7; acknowledged July 30, 1667.(p) He had been concerned in the writing of a letter by his father-in-law, William Nickerson, to Governor Nicolls of New York complaining of the Plymouth Colony Government, and on Oct. 30, 1667, he was fined 5 pounds for the offence.(q) About this time, or perhaps the year before, he removed to Monomoy, where his father-in-law had preceded him. His house appears to have been situated on the south side of the highway north of the Oyster Pond, in West Chatham.(r)

Oct. 25, 1668, Constant Southworth, treasurer of the colony, recovered of Robert Eldred of Monomoy a debt of 20 pounds due the treasurer for rates and fines.(s) He died before Jan. 18, 1682-3, when the inventory of his estate, amounting to 316 pounds was taken. This included 80 pounds for land which her father had given his wife and 6 pounds more from her father's estate, leaving 230 pounds to be divided.(t) On March 9, 1682-3, his widow and his son Nicholas Eldredge were appointed administratrix and administrator of his estate.(u) July 16, 1695, Elizabeth Eldredge, widow of Robert, and her daughters Hannah and Martha executed an agreement, reciting that for want of prudence the estate had been lost so that there was not property enough to make up the portions

of the two daughters, and that "they liveing att a distance, have had little or nothing," in which the widow gives them her estate after her death, Hannah and Martha under conditions named to share it with their sister Bridget Eldredge. The daughters were not then married. This paper was recorded as a will May 3, 1706, no doubt shortly after the death of the widow.(v) Robert Eldred was no doubt born in England, but the place of his birth and the date and place of his arrival in America have not been ascertained.

Children.

(2) Nicholas, b. Yarmouth, Aug.18, 1650.(w)

(3) Robert (probably) b.

(4) William, b.

(5) Joseph, b.

(6) Samuel (probably) b.

Hannah, b.

Martha, b.

Bridget, b. ; m. Wm. Long, May 17, 1714(x); d. . The estate of Edward Small was indebted to her in 1702.(y)

The order of births after Nicholas is not known. Some of the children were doubtless born in Yarmouth and some in Chatham. Savage (vol. 2, p. 108) suggests that Mary Eldred, who mar.(z) John Smith in Eastham Nov. 30, 1663, may have been a daughter of Robert and Elizabeth. The names of her children, however, do not so indicate.

The will of Joseph Eldredge mentions his brother William Eldredge and his sister Bridget Long.(aa)

Will of Elizabeth Eldredge.

Be it known to whom it Doth or may Concern that whereas I Elizabeth Eldridg was an administratrix to the Estate of my Late husband Robert Eldridg of Manamoy who Deceasd many years since the estate being settled in the Honed Court of New Plimouth and by them Determined what every childe should have and for want of prudense the Estate being Lost so that there is not enough for to make up each childs proportion Especially Hannah and Martha and the abovesd Hannah and Martha Liveing att a Distance have had little or nothing I Do therefore Deliver up and assigne unto my two Daughters Hannah and Martha to be towards their portions as followeth twenty acres of Land lying to the westward of the Great Hill according to the known bounds as will more att Large appere by Deed and three acres of meadow lying att a place Comonly Caled Nicks Cove and the house that I now Live In which my sd Husband built with two beds and beding and furniture with two brass kittles and one Iron Kittle and a small Iron pott and a brass skillet scimmer and six pewter dishes and two puter basons and a puter plate with all the rest of my household stuff further the abovesd Hannah and Martha Do covenant and grant to and with our sd Mother that she shall or may make up of any of the above specifiyed particulars for her own proper use During her naturall Life also the abovesd Martha and Hannah Dus covenant and grant to and with their sister Briget Eldridg that If

the Estate that shall come into our hands of our sd Mothers Estate shall amount to more to each of us than she has already had for her portion that then shee shall have an Equall share of what is Left To the truth and verity hereof we have sett to our hands and seal this sixteenth day of July one thousand six hundred and ninety and five.

marke

Elizabeth X Eldredg (Seale)

her marke

Hannah X Eldredg (Seale)

marke her

Martha X Eldredg (Seale)

Signed sealed and

In the presence of us

Barnabas Lothrop

Justice Peace

Jona. Sparrow

Just. Peace.

May the 3d 1706 then Received this Instrument to be recorded and is accordingly entered & compared.

p me Wm. Bassett Regtr.

SECOND GENERATION.

(2) Nicholas(2) —Robert(1)— Eldred, b. Yarmouth Aug. 18, 1650; m. Elizabeth (who was living Apr. 6, 1713):(a) d. in Chatham Apr. 30, 1702.(b) He was witness to a deed of William Nickerson, his grandfather, to the latter's son John of land at Monomoy(c) Feb. 11, 1673-4. He is mentioned in 1678 in the inventory of Moses Bartlett of Boston, who died in Monomoy, as having in his custody articles belonging to Bartlett.(d) June 6, 1682, he was on the grand jury in the Colony Court,

and March 6, 1682-3, on the petit jury.(e) March 22, 1685-6, he bought of Elisha Hedge of Yarmouth for 160 pounds land in Monomoy, including a tract N. of the highway near the E. end of the White Pond and 60 acres S. of the highway extending to the Oyster Pond river.(f) June 24, 1690, he took the oath as freeman.(g) With William Mitchell he was chosen to represent Monomoy in the first legislature of the united colonies, which convened at Boston June 8, 1692, and commenced its last session March 2, 1692-3.(h) He is styled "lieutenant" in the Chatham records July 1, 1696, and is so styled in the probate records. He was one of the selectmen in 1698.(i) His death doubtless occurred by drowning at the same time that the Rev. Jonathan Vickery, minister of Chatham, was drowned, and William Cahoon and Edward Small were drowned with them. In the probate records they are stated to have died the same day. Their inventories were taken and recorded the same day by the same persons,— John Doane, William Eldred and Thomas Atkins. The Rev. Joseph Lord, who became the minister of Chatham in 1720, after speaking of the coming of Mr. Vickery, says in his diary: "He continued here till he was drowned (by) going in a boat, which was upset (as is supposed), and all that were with him were drowned likewise."(j) The widow, Elizabeth, was appointed administratrix July 9, 1702.(k)

The inventory of his estate, taken May 29, 1702, amounted to between

300 and 400 pounds.(l) The division of his property July 15, 1702, names his children: James, John, Nicholas, Mary, Elizabeth, Martha and Desire.(m) A division of real estate was made in 1708.(n)

Children, all probably born in Chatham.

(7) James, b. ; m. Ruth ;
had Abner, James, Seth, Zephaniah, Rebecca, Mary and Ruth; d. July 19, 1757,(o) leaving a will.(p)

(8) John, b. ; m. ;
probably unmarried; d. before Feb. 20, 1722-3, when his brother James was appointed his administrator.(q)

(9) Nicholas, b. ; m. Hannah
before 1724; d. . In 1727 Thomas Doane claimed compensation from the town of Chatham for keeping the wife and child of Nicholas Eldredge.(r) He died about 1768, when the Chatham records mention him for the last time.

Mary, b. ; m. ; d. .

Elizabeth, b. ; m. probably in Eastham Samuel Harding Aug. 28, 1707;(s) d. .

Martha, b. ; m. perhaps Benjamin Snow in Eastham Aug. 7, 1723;(t) d. .

Desire, b. ; m. 1st Charles Gallop, Nov. 10, 1726,(u) and 2d John Dune, of Barnstable, Oct. 26, 1749;(v) d. .

(3) Robert(2) —Robert(1)— Eldredge. About 1711 there was an emigration from Chatham and Eastham to Duck Creek(a) in the vicinity of Smyrna, Kent Co., Del. Jeremiah Nickerson, Elisha Snow, Isaac Snow, John Snow and Robert Eldredge appear early on the Kent Co. records.

It is supposed that this Robert was a son of Robert(1) Eldred. Letters of administration on his estate were granted to Thomas Eldredge Oct. 5, 1732.(b)

(4) William(2) —Robert(1)— Eldred is first mentioned in the Chatham records in 1696. July 1, 1698, he was chosen surveyor of highways. He was one of the selectmen in 1697, 1698 and 1699 and again in 1705. About 1712 or prior thereto he built a house on Sandy Point at Wreck Cove on land bought of Joseph Stuart, and resided there. Subsequently he sold the place to Morris Faris.(c) May 20, 1700, he agreed with the town to bring boards and planks to line the meeting house. The estate of Edward Small was indebted to him in 1702.(d) May 29, 1702, he with others took the inventory of the Rev. Jonathan Vickery, Nicholas Eldred, William Cahoon and Edward Small.(d) March 31, 1703, Michael Stewart conveyed to him land near the White Pond in exchange for a conveyance by him to Stewart. Dec. 18, 1711, he conveyed 200 acres of land in Chatham with dwelling house to Seth Taylor of Yarmouth, describing himself as "planter."(e) March 13, 1716-7, he signed a paper in behalf of the defendant in the case of Hugh Adams v. Ebenezer Hawes.(f) In the same case there is on file the deposition of Sarah Eldredge, wife of William Eldredge, Sr., taken in Eastham March 21, 1715-16, before Nathl. Freeman, J. P. William Eldredge was one of the selectmen in 1721(g) and assessor and town clerk in 1727, and the same year was ap-

pointed to choose a schoolmaster. He was on the jury in 1732. These items in 1721, 1727 and 1732 may, however, belong to William Eldredge, son of Joseph, generally referred to as William Eldredge, Jr.

He m. in Eastham Jan. 30, 1705-7, Sarah Conant, no doubt widow of Joshua Conant(h), and d. in Chat-ham Apr. 27, 1749.(i) It would appear that this was not his first marriage and that he had children by a former wife, among whom were probably the following:

Children.

(10) William, b. .

(11) Isaac, b. .

Rebecca, b. : m. Ebenezer

Berry Oct. 13, 1713.(j)

William Eldredge of Harwich m. Thankful Crowell of Yarmouth, March 20, 1718. and had in Harwich Reuben, Rebecca, Sarah, Thankful, Bridget (b. July 29, 1730), William. Isaac and a daughter Jemiah (Jemima).(k) He is said to have died at a great age in April, 1782.(l) His will was dated March 6, 1758, and proved May 23, 1782.(m) Bridget was at that time and place an uncommon name. Bridget(2) —Robert(1)— Eldred was undoubtedly named for her grandmother, Bridget Busby. It may be inferred that the Bridget of Harwich was named for Bridget(2) and that the latter was her aunt. This would make William of Harwich son of William(2). William of Harwich was reported in that town as a Quaker in 1743.(n)

He was a deacon of the New Light or Separatist (later Baptist) church in Harwich after its organization in

1749. He had a brother Isaac, who lived in Harwich until 1757, when his house was burned down and his wife perished in the flames.(o)

A suit was brought about 1753 by Joshua Nickerson, minister of the New Light church in Harwich, against Solomon Kendrick, in the Superior Court of Judicature. (as appears by the Record Book), to determine whether Nickerson was entitled to exemption from taxes as a minister of the gospel, and a counter suit about 1757 by Kendrick against Nickerson. Among the proofs clearly belonging to these suits is a list of the members of his church, including the following of the name of Eldredge (files 23,475): Isaac, Jerusha, Dorothy, Monaraka, Mary, Rebecca, William, Reuben, Isaac, Jr., Sarah, Bridget, Thankful and Jemimah. The last eight were of William Eldredge's family. The first five appear to be Isaac(3) Eldredge, his wife Dorothy, and his daughters Jerusha, Monaraka and Mary. Mr. Josiah Paine states, from what he considers authentic tradition, that Isaac(3) Eldredge's wife was from North Carolina and that he had a daughter Elizabeth, who m. John Smith and d. in Harwich July 26, 1821, aged 85 years. A less certain tradition gives him also a daughter Rebecca and a son Seth, who is said to have moved to Chatham.

William Eldredge, Jr., of Harwich, son of William and Thankful, m. in Chatham Deborah Nickerson of that town Nov. 21, 1754.(p) not 1704 as stated by Freeman (vol. 2, 599).

(5) Joseph(2) —Robert(1)— El-

dred m. Elizabeth—perhaps daughter of Teague Jones(a),—and d. between Aug. 27, 1728 (date of will) and Sept. 24, 1735 (date of probate). In 1698 the name of Joseph Eldred first appears in the Chatham records. In 1700 he was chosen tithing man. In 1701 he was a grandjurymen. In 1702 the estate of Edward Small was indebted to him.(b) In 1705 he was a constable. In 1710 he was one of the selectmen.(c) March 13, 1716-17, he signed a paper in behalf of the defendant in the case of Adams v. Hawes.(d) In 1720-23 he was surveyor of highways and fence-viewer, and was styled "Sergeant." In 1721 he was a member of the committee on school. His will(e) describes him as farmer and mentions wife Elizabeth, sons William, John and Jeremiah, grandson Joseph Eldredge, granddaughters Tabitha and Elizabeth (daughter of Jeremiah) Eldredge, brother William Eldredge and sister Bridget Long. The inventory of his estate, dated Oct. 14, 1735, amounted to 3,112 pounds, 8 shillings.(f)

Children, born in Chatham.

(12) William, b. .

(13) John, b. ; m. Ruhamah Doane.(g) dau. of Thomas—Ephraim(2) John—Doane, Sept. 26, 1728. She d. of smallpox Jan. 24, 1766.(h) He was one of the selectmen for three years from 1740.(c)

(14) Jeremiah b. ; m. Lydia (d. before Jan. 20, 1735-6, date of her father's will), dau. of Daniel and Elizabeth Hamilton, and had Elizabeth.(i)

Tabitha, probably, b. .

Joseph(2) Eldredge had a granddaughter Tabitha, and it is thought that Tabitha Eldredge who m. William Mitchell March 19, 1713-14 (at the house of his grandfather, William Nickerson, Sr.), (j) was his daughter. No other parentage seems assignable to her. She is not mentioned in his will, and if his daughter, probably died before him without issue.

Will of Joseph Eldredge.

In the name of God Amen. The Last Will and Testament of Joseph Eldridge of Chatham in the Province of the Massets. Bay New England Farmer being weak in body but in perfect mind and memory Thanks be to God for the same do Hereby make this my last will and Testament in manner following viz— Imprimis I Give and Surrender up my Soul into the hands of Almighty God, & my body to the earth from whence it came Deacently to be buried by my Exers Hereafter Named Also my will is that as to my Real & Personal Estate (after my debts and bequeaths paid) the thirds thereof to go to my Dear & Loving wife Elizabeth Eldridge for life and the Remainder to be Equally Divided amongst my three sons William John & Jeremy, and that if they should survive my wife that after her Decease my whole Estate to be equally Divided amongst my three sons William John & Jeremy Also my will is that Joseph Eldridge my grandson shall have Ten pounds Boston money, Also my will is that Tabathy Eldridge my granddaughter shall have five pounds Boston money

aforsd. Also my will is that Elizabeth Eldridge Daughter of Jeremy Eldridge shall have five pounds Boston money afd. Also my will is that my brother William Eldridge shall have forty shillings Boston money afd. Also my will is that my sister Bridget Long shall have forty shillings Boston money afd.

And Lastly I hereby appoint Nathaniel Freeman of Eastham in the Province of ye Massachusetts Bay in New England Execr. of this my Last will and Testament Revokeing & Setting Aside all former Wills heretofore made by me Witness my hand and seale this 27th day of August 1728.

HIS

JOSEPH X ELDRIDGE (SEAL)
MARK

Signed sealed & Delivered
in ye presence of

Jonathan Bang

I. Bee

Ebenezer Stuartt

(6) Samuel(2) —Robert(1)— Eldredge, m. Elizabeth, dau. of Trustrum(1) and Anne (Nickerson) Hedges. Sept. 14, 1694, Trustrum Hedges conveyed land in Monomoy to his son Samuel Eldredge and his daughter Elizabeth Eldredge, wife of said Samuel. The latter had bought land of James Eldredge, and by deed describing him as planter (dated May 15, and executed by his wife June 6, 1711) he with his wife Elizabeth conveyed it with other land for a consideration of 100 pounds to Seth Taylor of Yarmouth.(k) The Chatham records show that he was a grand-juryman in 1700 and a tithing man

in 1705. No other parentage is assignable, and therefore it is thought he was a son of Robert(1).

THIRD GENERATION.

(12) William(3) —Joseph(2), Robert(1)— Eldredge m. Hannah. dau. of John(2)—Richard(1)—Taylor, Oct. 1, 1713;(a) d. before March 30, 1753, when Jonathan Kenwrick was appointed guardian of his minor son Solomon.(b) His widow died before Jan. 15, 1772, when her dower was divided.(c) The Chatham records show the cattie mark of William Eldredge, son of Joseph, Sept. 9, 1714. He was commonly called William Eldredge, Jr., to distinguish him from his uncle. March 13, 1716-17, he signed a paper in behalf of the defendant in the case of Adams v. Hawes.(d) He was one of the selectmen 1721-24. Apr. 6, 1732, he wrote a letter to the court praying to be excused from jury duty on the ground that he was bound to sea on a voyage, from which it may be inferred that he was master of a fishing vessel.(e) The same year, with others, he was in controversy with Thomas Doane as to the latter's right to Monomoy Great Beach, which was decided by arbitrators against Doane.(f) He owned a large part of the land on Stage Neck, and in his latter years no doubt was a farmer. His son-in-law Jonathan Kenwrick was appointed administrator of his estate Apr. 27, 1753.(g) and he having died Thomas Freeman of Harwich was appointed in his place Aug. 7, 1753.(h) The inventory of his estate, taken Oct. 2, 1753, amounted to 671 pounds,

11 shillings, 8 pence, and included 5-8 of a windmill and appurtenances, a wood lot in Harwich, meadow on the N. side of the Oyster Pond, meadow at the Great Beach; clear land, wood land and one dwelling house near the Oyster Pond; land and dwelling house on the S. side of Stage Neck; and "a parcel of land where the mill stands & ye house & barn."(i) The division of his real estate,(j) Dec. 3, 1753, mentions widow Hannah, sons Seth (deceased), Joseph, Hezekiah, William, and Solomon, and daughter Tabitha Kenwrick. The widow's dower was divided Jan. 15, 1772, and it then appears that Hezekiah was dead.(k)

Children, born in Chatham.

(15) Seth b. ; m. Patience, dau. of Daniel Howes, and had Hannah (Aug. 27, 1743), Tabitha (July 5, 1745), Elizabeth (Jan. 20, 1747-8), Mary (Sept. 27, 1750);(l) d. before his father.

(16) Joseph b. ; m. Martha Sears, March 22, 1750-1,(m) and had Seth (March 9, 1753.)(n)

(17) Hezekiah b. ; m. Mary Doane, dau. of Thomas(4) —Thomas(3), Ephraim(2), John(1)—Doane, May 3, 1758;(o) d. before his mother.

(18) William b. .

(19) Solomon b. ; m. Dary Nickerson Apr. 25, 1752;(p) under age at the death of his father.

Tabitha, b. ; m. for her first husband Dr. Jonathan Kenwrick of Harwich (part now in Orleans), who d. July 20, 1753, in his 38th year, and for her second husband Theophilus Hopkins, July 24, 1754.(q)

FOURTH GENERATION.

(18) William(4) —William(3), Joseph(2), Robert(1)— Eldredge m. Aug. 17, 1756 (int. June 12, 1756) (a) Susannah(b) (Susan), daughter of Joshua(3) —Thomas(2), Henry(1)— Atkins and Sarah (dau. of Daniel Scars), his wife: d. bet. Jan. 15, 1772, when his mother's dower was divided, and March 26, 1774, when his widow declared her intention to marry Jonathan Nickerson. In 1760 he was on a jury of inquest over the body of Arthur Newton of Boston, "drowned by misfortune" at Chatham.(c)

Children, born in Chatham.(d)

Rebecca, b. July 5, 1757; d. May 5, 1753.

(20) Atkins, b. May 13, 1759. He served in Capt. Thomas Hamilton's Company (organized for defense of the seacoast) from July 18, 1775, to Dec. 31, 1775.(e) He was perhaps the "Atkins Eldridge" who served as seaman on the brigantine "Freedom" from Aug. 4, 1777, to Sept. 14, 1777.(e) March 16, 1779, he is mentioned in the will of his grandfather Joshua Atkins.(f) Nothing farther is known of him.

Sarah (Gally) b. Sept. 12, 1761; m. Reuben(5) C. —Samuel(4), Samuel(3), John(2), Richard(1)— Taylor and d. May 1, 1842. (See Taylor Genealogy.)

(21) William, b. July 14, 1764; m. Lucy Bearse.

Susannah, b. Aug. 24, 1767; died unmarried after April 20, 1814, when she is mentioned as living in the account book of her brother-in-law, Reuben C. Taylor.(g)

Betty (Betsey),(h) b. Jan. 10, 1770; moved to Maine, m. Wiggins (or Wiggin) and according to her nephew, Rev. Levi Eldredge,* had three sons and one daughter. She died before April 20, 1814, when her heirs are mentioned in the account book of Reuben C. Taylor, among whose papers is a receipt, dated August 18, 1826, signed by her son Stephen B. Wiggins in behalf of himself and his sister Rhoda N. Wiggins.

(22) Levi, b. Nov. 6, 1772.

William Eldredge having died, his widow married Jonathan Nickerson July 28, 1774 (int. March 26, 1774), who died between Sept. 15, 1803, when he is mentioned as living, and January , 1810, when his estate is charged in the account book of Reuben C. Taylor. His widow evidently had the use of his estate, which was not settled till after her death. She died after Sept. 30, 1813, when she is mentioned as a widow in the will of her sister Rebecca Nickerson,(i) and before Jan. 11, 1814, when her son-in-law Reuben C. Taylor was appointed administrator of Jonathan Nickerson's estate.(j) After her death her dower right in the estate of her first husband, William Eldredge, was also settled, and on Dec. 3, 1814, her son-in-law Reuben C. Taylor and her son William Eldredge conveyed the Great Beach rights.(k) Jonathan Nickerson and Susannah, his wife, conveyed land in Harwich Feb. 21, 1806.(l)

Children by her second husband.

David Nickerson, b. Oct. 6, 1775; d. Nov. 25, 1804.

Rhoda Nickerson, b. March 25,

1778; m. Caleb Nickerson, Jr. (int. Feb. 27, 1796); (11) d. March 29, 1798. (12)

Jonathan Nickerson, b. Jan. 16, 1781; d. Oct. 1, 1782.

David Nickerson moved to Maine, where he married Jedidah Nickerson (dau. of Constant Nickerson of Readfield) and had three sons, Ebenezer, David and Jonathan. His wife died and he returned to Chatham, leaving the children with their grandfather. They settled in Mercer, Me. (m)

When the writer started the investigation of his Eldredge line, he had no knowledge of the parentage or ancestry of his great-grandfather William Eldredge. Upon finding the division of the estate of William Eldredge, Jr., being William(3) — Joseph(2), Robert(1)— the location of the portion given to his son William and information received from the writer's mother and Uncle Samuel Taylor, who lived upon that location, made it clear that the writer's great-grandfather was the son of William Eldredge, Jr. Confirmation, however, was sought in the records and found. The lands set out to Hannah, widow of William Eldredge, Jr., included "a part of said deceaseds rights with Covells in the Nickerson and Covells third of Manemoy great beach meadow and sedge ground." (n) The lands set out to his son William included "one half of a fourteenth in the third called ye Harwich third in the Aforesaid beach meadow and sedge ground." (o) In the division of the widow's thirds, it was stated that the meadow and sedge ground that had been set out to her on the Great

Beach could not be divided by metes and bounds and it was left undivided among the heirs, the heirs of the son Seth having two sevenths and the other children, including William, or their representatives, having one seventh each.(p) By deed dated and acknowledged Dec. 3, 1814, Reuben C. Taylor of Chatham, Mass., and William Eldredge of Sag Harbor, New York, mariner, sold to Richard Sears of Chatham, "severall tracks of meadow beach and flats situated in said Chatham as followes Viz. all the wright title & interest that our father William Eldrege late of said Chatham died seized & possesed of In that third of monnamoit great beach meadow & flates callede the Harwich purchase and in Nickersons and Crowells purchase of that other third of said beach meadow & flates lying in common and undivided jointly with the heirs of Joseph Eldrege, Hezikiah Eldrege, William Eldrege and Solomon Eldrege as will appear more fully by the records of said Propriaters."(q)

FIFTH GENERATION.

(21) William(5) —William(4), William(3), Joseph(2), Robert(1)—Eldredge, m. Lucy Bearse, and moved about 1801 to Sag Harbor, L. I., where he died in 1837. She died in 1818. He had one son Atkins Eldredge, b. in Chatham Aug. 19, 1799. He also had six daughters, Susannah (m. Abraham Sanford), Lucy (m. William Paine), Polly (m. Nathaniel Edwards), Sarah (m. Daniel Y. Bellows), Nancy (m. Thomas Corey) and Matsey (m. Shadrach Reeves, who lived in New London, Conn.).

He was a seafaring man and his son and two of his sons-in-law were whaling captains. The son Atkins Eldredge m. Jan. 31, 1828, Harriet Latham of Sag Harbor (who d. Sept. 10, 1874), and had Maria J., Dec. 20, 1828, who m. 1st Capt. Heman B. Gardiner and 2d Oliver B. Lucas; Eleazer L., Oct. 27, 1831; and George A., March 8, 1838, who d. unmarried July 20, 1870. Atkins Eldredge died Aug. 11, 1858. Eleazer L. Eldredge m. Sept. 11, 1859, Harriet E. Leete, of East Haven, Conn., and had Martha A. July 4, 1861, who m. Robert N. Noble; Mary L. June 15, 1863, unmarried; William Atkins Oct. 3, 1865, who m. Oct. 3, 1895, Lottie M. Latham, lives in New Haven, Conn., and has two sons and one daughter; and George Albert Apr. 30, 1871, unmarried.(a)

(22) Levi(5) —William(4), William(3), Joseph(2), Robert(1)—Eldredge, b. Chatham, Mass., Nov. 6, 1772; m. Metitable(6) —Samuel(5), Samuel(4), Samuel(3), John(2), Richard(1)—Taylor, Nov. 4, 1794, in Chatham. Removed soon after his marriage to Readfield, Me. He was a soldier in the War of 1812, and died at Buffalo, N. Y., of wounds received in the Battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25, 1814. His widow m. Isaac West and died in 1846, aged 63 years.(b)

Children, born in Readfield.

(1) Susan, b. 1797; m. Daniel Blaisdell, settled in Jay, Me., and had two sons and one daughter; died 1879.

(2) Increase S. Eldredge, b. 1799; m. Percis Chandler, who died in 1879,

no issue; he was for fifty years a minister of the Christian church; settled in Chesterville, Me., and died in 1883.

(3) Levi Eldredge, b. Apr. 20, 1802; m. 1st Sally Bean, who died in Chelsea, Mass., in 1851, having had one son and four daughters, of whom three died young; m. 2d Priscilla Whittier, who died Sept. 10, 1887; he was a minister of the Christian church for fifty years and settled in Mercer, Me. He died in Colebrook, N. H., Aug. 27, 1888, while on a visit to his daughter, Mrs. S. S. Gilman (Bathsheba B.). His son's name was Levi Gilman Eldredge, now deceased, who lived near Portland, Me., and left two sons, Melville N. (chief of the Portland Fire Department) and Alvah, besides three daughters.

(4) Mehitabel(c), b. 1804; m. Enoch Noyes, settled in Jay, Me., and had 12 children, the survivors of whom lived in Mass. in 1882; died before June 26, 1882.

(5) Rhoda(d), b. ; m. Solomon Keyes, settled in Jay, Me., and had seven sons and four daughters; living in Wilton, Me., in 1882. Five of the sons were in the army at one time during the Civil War.

(6) Eunice, b. 1807; m. Dexter Walker, settled in Portland, Me., and had one son and one daughter; living in Portland in 1882.

(7) Betsey Eldredge, b. 1809 ; m. John Walker, had two sons, resided in Livermore and Portland, Me.; living in Colorado in 1882 with her sons.

(8) William, b. 1810; m. Rhoda Wiggins, settled in Jay, Me.; had two sons and two daughters; his wife and daughters and one son died before June 26, 1882, at which time he was living in Augusta, and his surviving son, Orlando, in Portland, Me. Both since deceased.

REFERENCES.

FIRST GENERATION.

(a) The early records write Eldred. Some families of the name write the long form Eldridge. Within the memory of the compiler old people commonly pronounced the name Eldred, although it was written Eldredge.

(b) William Eldred, who died in 1679 (Swift's Old Yarmouth, 64, 65), was a contemporary with Robert in Yarmouth, but there is no proof that they were related. William Eldred left issue, including probably Jehosaphat who settled in Chatham and left issue (Will, 5 Barn. Prob. Recs. 175, proved 1732). See Eldredge Genealogy by Zoeth S. Eldredge, published in 51 New England Historical and Genealogical Register, 46 (hereafter cited as "N. E."), and in book form.

(c) 1 Plym. Col. Recs. 122.

(d) Mass. & Plym. Col. Recs.

(e) 8 Plym. Col. Recs. 187.

(f) 7 Plym. Col. Recs. 39.

(g) 8 Mayflower Descendant, 209 (hereafter cited as "Mf.").

(h) 8 Plym. Col. Recs. 10.

(i) 7 Plym. Col. Recs. 63.

(j) 3 Plym. Col. Recs. 116, 117; 8 id. 185.

(k) 7 Plym. Col. Recs. 92.

(l) Afterward Chatham.

(m) Thos. Doane Papers. (Collected by Thomas Doane of Chatham in the first half of the 18th century and now in the possession of Benja-

min H. Doane, Esq., of New York city.)

(n) 4 Plym. Col. Recs. 154.

(o) 7 Plym. Col. Recs. 132.

(p) 3 Plym. Col. Deeds, 332.

(q) 4 Plym. Col. Recs. 168.

(r) Thos. Doane Papers.

(s) 7 Plym. Col. Recs. 149; 8 id.
124.

(t) Plym. Col. Wills, 4 (2), pp. 25,
26.

(u) 6 Plym. Col. Recs. 104, 105.

(v) 2 Barn. Prob. Recs. 216.

(w) 8 Plym. Col. Recs. 12.

(x) 23 N. E. 178. In the Register the name was printed Lang, but this was an error and Mr. Samuel C. Adams upon re-examination of the MS so informed Josiah Paine, Esq. After the death of Bridget, Mr. Long (who had resided in Harwich) married in Yarmouth and died there. A son, William Long, Jr., continued to reside in Harwich.

(y) Barn. Prob. Recs.

(z) 8 Mf. 91.

(aa) 5 Barn. Prob. Recs. 248.

SECOND GENERATION.

(a) Thos. Doane papers.

(b) 2 Barn. Prob. Recs. 143.

(c) 5 Plym. Col. Deeds, 328.

(d) Old Wills &c. in Barn. Prob.
Office, 403.

(e) 6 Plym. Col. Recs. 86, 259.

(f) Thos. Doane papers.

(g) 6 Plym. Col. Recs. 257, 258.

(h) Mass. Archives.

(i) 2 Freeman's Cape Cod, 614;
Deyo 592.

(j) Yarmouth Register, Dec. 17,
1846.

(k) 2 Barn. Prob. Recs. 143.

- (l) 2 Barn. Prob. Recs. 145.
- (m) 2 Barn. Prob. Recs. 147, 151.
- (n) 3 Barn. Prob. Recs. 60.
- (o) 2 Freeman 501.
- (p) 9 Barn. Prob. Recs. 292.
- (q) 4 Barn. Prob. Recs. 104.
- (r) Thos. Doane papers.
- (s) Eastham Recs. (3 Mf. 231).

The first child of this marriage was named Nicholas.

- (t) Eastham Recs.
- (u) Chatham Recs. (5 Mf. 120, 121, 142).
- (v) Chatham Recs. (7 Mf. 139).
- (a) 34 N. E. 408.
- (b) Kent Co. Prob. Recs., Book H, p. 32.

(c) Files of Superior Ct. of Judicature, No. 27,319 (hereafter cited as "Files").

- (d) Barn. Prob. Recs.
- (e) Thos. Doane papers.
- (f) Files, No. 10,812.
- (g) 2 Freeman 614; Deyo's Barnstable County, 592.

(h) Eastham Recs. (6 Mf. 205). See Conant Family, 162 and 163, and Newcomb Family, 19.

(i) Chatham Recs. (5 Mf. 121) give the death of Lieut. William Eldredge on this date. It is true that William, son of Joseph, is called Jr. in the probate records after this date, but that was probably from the force of habit. 2 Freeman, 605, places the death in 1779. This is an error.

- (j) 5 Mf. 202; Harwich Recs.
- (k) 2 Freeman, 599; Harwich Recs. (8 Mf. 107).

- (l) 52 N. E. 80.
- (m) 14 Barn. Prob. Recs. 144.
- (n) 2 Freeman, 512.
- (o) Extract from the diary of the

Rev. Isaac Backus, now in the New England Baptist Library, Boston.

1757. "A Journey to Harwich."

"Tuesday May 24—Went over to Deacon Eldridges & prt in the for'n & his B'r Isaac Eldridge's wife was there who has been accounted a Saint, but for several years past she has been disordered in her reason, the chief cause wherof was supposed to be her exercising herself in things too wonderful for her & then being too roughly treated for some of her wild notions in Religion, which shockt her senses & made her very wild, tho laterly she has been better composd: but now she went home from meeting & got some fire at a neighbor's & said she would go & boil out some yarn & after she had kindled a fire she went out at some distance to get some water & left the door open, and before she came back the wind had blown the fire so as the house was got all in a flame, and unadvisedly she ventured in to save her bed & was burned up in the house. This was just as we were going to begin meeting again—about 2 of the clock aft'n. Such a sight as I never saw before a house all in flames ('twas about half a mile from us)—In my sermon I endeavored to improve the Providence from Luk 13: 5—& a solemn time it was! After meeting we came along & there was only part of her bones left which were then buried. O what sudden changes attend us in this world! A few hours ago she met with us & now but a small part of her can be seen!—May this awak-

en every soul to prepare to meet God!"

(p) Chatham Recs. (7 Mf. 137).

(a) The inventory of Joseph Eldredge (5 Barn. Prob. Recs. 266) contains land in Yarmouth, which he owned as early as 1691, when Teague Jones conveyed land there to his son, Jeremiah Jones, bounded by the land of Joseph Eldredge and Josiah Jones (Files No. 9938). Joseph Eldredge's son Jeremiah may well have been named for Jeremiah Jones, who was probably his uncle.

(b) Barn. Prob. Recs.

(c) 2 Freeman 614; Deyo 592.

(d) Files, No. 10,812.

(e) 5 Barn. Prob. Recs. 248.

(f) 5 Barn. Prob. Recs. 266.

(g) Chatham Recs. (5 Mf. 120);
Doane Geneal. 59.

(h) Mass. Archives.

(i) Will of Daniel Hamilton, 5
Barn. Prob. Recs. 369.

(j) 23 N. E. 178.

(k) Thos. Doane papers.

THIRD GENERATION.

(a) 23 N. E. 178.

(b) 7 Barn. Prob. Recs. 298.

(c) 12 id. 484.

(d) Files, No. 10,812.

(e) id. No. 33,529.

(f) Thos. Doane papers.

(g) 7 Barn. Prob. Recs. 281.

(h) 7 id. 309.

(i) 9 Barn. Prob. Recs. 172.

(j) 9 id. 177.

(k) 12 Barn. Prob. Recs. 484.

(l) Chatham Recs. (11 Mf. 41, 42).
His widow m. 2d Jonathan Eldredge
Aug. 25, 1754, (7 Mf. 137); and 3d
Samuel Collins Oct. 19, 1758, (5 Mf.

35, 36). See the estates of Seth and Jonathan Eldredge and Daniel Howes, Barn. Prob. Recs.

(m) Chatham Recs. (7 Mf. 138, 140).

(n) 2 Freeman 599; 12 Mf. 176.

(o) Chatham Recs. (9 Mf. 33-36); Doane Geneal. 89.

(p) Chatham Recs. (7 Mf. 137).

(q) 21 N. E. 214.

FOURTH GENERATION.

(a) Chatham Recs.; 7 Mf. 143.

(b) Born March 6, 1738-9 (Chatham Recs.). See Atkins Genealogy.

(c) Files, No. 81,376.

(d) Family Record of Susannah (Eldredge) Nickerson in possession of writer.

(e) 5 Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Rev. War, 261, 264.

(f) 20 Barn. Prob. Recs. 48.

(g) In possession of writer.

(h) She probably m. in Chatham Stephen Bearse (the Chatham Recs., 11 Mf. 41, give the int. of Stephen Bearse and Betsey Eldredge, Aug. 7, 1788), and had a daughter (her mother's record gives the death of "Macy Bars" July 20, 1805). Wiggins would thus be her second husband. She is mentioned as Betsey Wiggins, deceased, in a deed of her brother William Eldredge, Dec. 2, 1814 (Barn. Recs., 2 Chatham Deeds, 100).

(i) 22 Barn. Prob. Recs. 12.

(j) 36 Barn. Prob. Recs. 160.

(k) Barn. Recs., 2 Chatham Deeds, 301.

(l) Barn. Recs., 1 Harwich Deeds, 269.

(11) Chatham Recs.

(12) Gravestone.

(m) Information from Rev. Levi Eldredge.

(n) 9 Barn. Prob. Recs. 177 et seq.

(o) 9 Barn. Prob. Recs. 177 et seq.

(p) 12 Barn. Prob. Recs. 484 et seq.

(q) Barn. Recs., 2 Chatham Deeds, 301.

FIFTH GENERATION.

(a) Information from the granddaughter of William(5) Eldredge, Mrs. Maria J. Lucas of Sag Harbor, his grandson, Eleazer L. Eldredge, of New Haven, Conn., and Rev Levi Eldredge.

(b) Information as to Levi(5) Eldredge and his descendants was obtained from his son, Rev. Levi(6) Eldredge.

(c) Twin with Rhoda.

(d) Twin with Mehitabel.

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